

**STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT**

# **Basham Press Release**

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## **BASHAM FIGHTS OFFICE CLOSINGS IN ROMULUS, WAYNE, SOUTHGATE & ALLEN PARK**

**Demands More Disclosure on Secretary of State's Proposed Reorganization Plan**

LANSING- In a letter to Michigan Secretary of State Terri Lynn Land, State Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) expressed "extreme disappointment" in a new proposal by the Secretary of State's office that would close branch offices in Romulus, Wayne, Southgate and Allen Park. Sen. Basham is insisting that the Secretary provide more details as to the methodology she used in the development of a reorganization plan that would close branch offices throughout Michigan.

"I'm very disappointed that Secretary Land failed to discuss a proposal of this magnitude with members of the Legislature or provide any opportunity for public input," said Basham.

"Government decisions that impact the viability of local businesses and local economies should not be made behind closed doors."

The Secretary of State provided no advance notice prior to announcing this new reorganization plan and failed to provide the public with information on the decision-making process involved with determining which offices were to be closed. Sen. Basham has been steadily pressuring the Secretary of State's Office to release more data.

"I'm very concerned with the significant number of office closings in our area and would like to see Secretary Land consider alternative proposals," said Basham. "It's not right that our local

communities should have to bear so much of the burden under this proposal. I'm confident that with a more open process we could develop a solution that better serves all citizens."

Sen. Basham stated that he hopes to get the Secretary of State to reopen this process and allow testimony on how these closings might impact local communities and to consider alternative solutions.